



**UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE  
RURAL DEVELOPMENT**

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**GROUNDBREAKING FOR VALLEY HEIGHTS II**

**Beatrice, Neb., March 27, 2002** – Jim Barr, USDA Rural Development State Director in Nebraska participated today in the Valley Heights II groundbreaking held in Beatrice. Valley Heights II will provide 14 units of affordable housing for the elderly in Beatrice and 4 units in Odell.

"We must ensure that the elderly in rural Nebraska are provided with safe and affordable housing," stated Barr. "Complexes such as Valley Heights II are great assets to rural areas as they assist in meeting the needs of the aging."

State Director Barr presented Blue Valley Community Action with a check for \$657,436, the amount of USDA Rural Development loan funds utilized for Valley Heights II. The USDA funds are leveraged with \$300,000 in HOME funds from the Nebraska Department of Economic Development, \$129,664 from the Thayer County Bank of Hebron, with Blue Valley Community Action contributing \$30,000 for a total project cost of \$1,117,100. Interim financing was provided by Horizon Bank of Waverly.

Valley Heights II consisting of two complexes, one in Beatrice and the second in Odell, will offer 18 units of elderly housing. The Beatrice complex will be comprised of 14 one-bedroom units with one unit being fully handicap accessible. The Odell complex will feature two each of one-bedroom and two-bedroom units with one unit being fully handicap accessible. Amenities at both facilities include a community room along with laundry area. Blue Valley Community Action of Fairbury will own and manage both complexes. The completion of Valley Heights II is projected for October 15, 2002.

USDA Rural Development serves as the lead federal entity for rural development needs and administers financial and technical assistance through three agencies: Rural Housing Service, Rural Business-Cooperative Service and Rural Utilities Service. Further information on USDA Rural Development can be obtained by contacting any USDA Service Center or by visiting USDA's website at [www.rurdev.usda.gov](http://www.rurdev.usda.gov).

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